

# **SB 660 (Perata)**

## **CA Office of Climate Change Research and Assessment**

### *Background:*

- Last year's landmark climate change laws focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and their effects on the environment but did little to address climate assessment activities or ensure that state research investments and activities are prioritized to promote climate benefits and clean technologies.
- There is approximately \$100 million a year available for climate-related energy and transportation research and development, but the activities are currently spread among four different state agencies.
- There is no single, coordinated strategic investment plan to ensure scarce state research dollars are invested to provide better information on the effects of climate change. Also, there is no plan to target research dollars to those activities that will bring new technologies and industries to market and help make the state the world's clean technology leader.

### *SB 660 does the following:*

- Establishes the California Office of Climate Change Research and Assessment in the Resources Agency both to centralize all efforts assessing the effects of climate change and to set research priorities for climate-related activities.
- Establishes the "California Strategic Research Coordinating Council" consisting six members and two legislative appointments, one from each house, who would serve ex officio.

The members would be the chairs of the state Public Utilities Commission, California Energy Commission, and Air Resources Board, the Director of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the research directors of the California Energy Commission and Air

## Resources Board.

- Directs the council to prepare, adopt, and publish an annual “Climate Change Strategic Investment Plan” that prioritizes state research funding for projects that assess critical impacts of climate change and help bring new, clean technologies to market in the state.
- Requires the plan to include assessments that review the potential impacts of climate change on air, water, coastal, and wildlife resources and recommends strategies to mitigate those impacts.
- Requires that state energy and environmental research funds be targeted to those activities and technologies that help assess the impacts of climate change and promote investments, such as new energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, fuel cells, and other technologies that assist the state in meeting its climate and clean air targets.